Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. Please amend/cancel/add the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating an object with a gas, comprising:

a step of putting the object ~~in a~~ having a length shorter than a length of a hermetically sealed treatment section in said hermetically sealed treatment section filled with a treatment gas;

a treatment step of treating the ~~put~~ object with the gas at a desired position in a gas atmosphere in the treatment section for a desired time; and

a step of discharging the ~~released~~ treated object from the treatment section after the treatment step; ~~and~~

~~a conveying step of conveying the treated object discharged from the treatment section.~~wherein said treatment step comprises:

a first treatment step of treating the object put in the treatment section with the gas at said desired position in the gas atmosphere in the treatment section for the desired time; and

a second treatment step of moving the object in the treatment section of the gas atmosphere to treat the object with the gas again at a desired position for the desired time so as to cause even treatment of the object after completion of the first treatment step.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A reaction apparatus for treating an object with a gas, comprising:

a treatment section which includes at least a treatment gas injection section, an inlet for the object and an outlet for the treated object, and a structure in which the object is automatically conveyed from the inlet to the outlet and is treated with the gas in a hermetically sealed space, said treatment section further including a mechanism for holding the object in a gas atmosphere in the treatment section in a fixed place for a desired time and a mechanism for moving or swinging the object to prevent unevenness of the treatment;

a conveying mechanism for conveying the treated object from the outlet of the treatment section to the outside of the apparatus;

~~The reaction apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:~~

at least two operation pieces disposed back and forth in a direction orthogonal to an advancing direction of the object in the treatment section to freely move up and down,

wherein the two operation pieces are constituted of a first operation piece positioned on the inlet side of the object to be treated, and a second operation piece positioned on the outlet side of the treated object;

the first operation piece holds the object in a fixed place for a desired time to treat the object with the gas for a desired time, and then the first operation piece is raised to lower the object toward the outlet by a desired distance; and

the second operation piece receives the object passed through the raised first operation piece, holds the object in a fixed place for a desired time to treat the object with the gas again for a desired time, and then the second operation piece is raised to lower the object toward the outlet.

6. (Original) The reaction apparatus according to claim 5,

wherein the first and second operation pieces are formed to be different lengths: the first operation piece being formed to be short, and the second operation piece being formed to be long, and the operation pieces are vertically moved by the same mechanism.

7. (Original) The reaction apparatus according to claim 5,

wherein the first and second operation pieces are vertically moved by different mechanisms.

8. (Currently Amended) A reaction apparatus for treating an object with a gas, comprising:

a treatment section which includes at least a treatment gas injection section, an inlet for the object and an outlet for the treated object, and a structure in which the object is automatically conveyed from the inlet to the outlet and is treated with the gas in a hermetically sealed space, said treatment section further including a mechanism for holding the object in a gas atmosphere in the treatment section in a fixed place for a desired time and a mechanism for moving or swinging the object to prevent unevenness of the treatment;

a conveying mechanism for conveying the treated object from the outlet of the treatment section to the outside of the apparatus;

~~The reaction apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:~~

an operation piece disposed in the treatment section in a direction orthogonal to the advancing direction of the object,

wherein the operation piece is adapted to be swung by a swinging mechanism.

9. (Original) The reaction apparatus according to claim 8,

wherein the operation piece has a structure in which the object received in the treatment section is held in a fixed place for a desired time to be treated with the gas, swung back or forth in the advancing direction, and then held in a position to which it has been moved by a desired distance to be treated again with the gas for a desired time.

10. (Original) The reaction apparatus according to claim 8,

wherein the operation piece has a structure in which the object received in the treatment section is swung back and forth in the advancing direction for a desired time to be treated with the gas.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) A method for treating an object, such as a wiper blade for cleaning window glasses of automobiles, electric trains and the like, with a gas comprising:

a step of putting an object shorter than a length of a hermetically sealed treatment section in said treatment section filled with a treatment gas;

a treatment step of treating the object with the gas at a desired position in a gas atmosphere in the treatment section for a desired time; and

a step of discharging the treated object from the treatment section after the treatment step,

wherein a guiding member for guiding the object from an upper reach side to a lower reach side is arranged in the treatment section in the longitudinal direction of the treatment section, and wherein said treatment step comprises:

a first treatment step of treating the object in the treatment section with the gas at the desired position in the gas atmosphere in the treatment section for the desired time; and

a second treatment step, after completion of the first treatment step, of moving the object in the treatment section of the gas atmosphere to treat the object with the gas again at a desired position for the desired time so as to cause even treatment.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the treatment section is arranged in a downward slope from the upper reach side to the lower reach side and the guiding member includes bearing rollers arranged at desired intervals in the treatment section.

18. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the downward slope of the treatment section is at an inclined angle set to a degree at which the object contacts with the rollers and falls down from the inlet side to the outlet side by its own weight.

19. (New) A reaction apparatus for treating an object, such as a wiper blade for cleaning window glasses of automobiles, electric trains and the like, with a gas comprising:

a treatment section which includes at least a treatment gas injection section, an inlet for the object, and an outlet for the treated object, and a structure in which the object is automatically conveyed from the inlet to the outlet and is treated with the gas in a hermetically sealed space;

a conveying mechanism for conveying the treated object from the outlet of the treatment section to the outside of the apparatus;

a guiding member for guiding the object which is shorter than a length of the treatment section from an upper reach side to a lower reach side being arranged in the treatment section in the longitudinal direction of the treatment section; and

a mechanism for holding and treating the object with gas at a fixed place in the gas atmosphere in the treatment section for a desired time, and a mechanism for moving or swinging the object in the treatment section and treating the object with gas so as to prevent unevenness of the treatment.

20. (New) The reaction apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

at least two operation pieces disposed back and forth in a direction orthogonal to an advancing direction of the object in the treatment section to freely move up and down,

wherein the two operation pieces are constituted of a first operation piece positioned on the inlet side of the object to be treated, and a second operation piece positioned on the outlet side of the treated object;

the first operation piece holds the object in a fixed place for a desired time to treat the object with the gas for a desired time, and then the first operation piece is raised to lower the object toward the outlet by a desired distance; and

the second operation piece receives the object passed through the raised first operation piece,

holds the object in a fixed place for a desired time to treat the object with the gas again for a desired time, and then the second operation piece is raised to lower the object toward the outlet.

21. (New) The reaction apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the first and second operation pieces are formed to be different lengths, said first operation piece being formed to be short, and said second operation piece being formed to be long, said operation pieces being vertically moved by the same mechanism.

22. (New) The reaction apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the first and second operation pieces are vertically moved by different mechanisms.

23. (New) The reaction apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

an operation piece disposed in the treatment section in a direction orthogonal to the advancing direction of the object, said operation piece being adapted to be swung by a swinging mechanism.

24. (New) The reaction apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the operation piece has a structure in which the object received in the treatment section is held in a fixed place for a desired time to be treated with the gas, swung back and forth in the advancing direction, and then held in a position to which it has been moved by a desired distance to be treated again with the gas for a desired time.

25. (New) The reaction apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the operation piece has a structure in which the object received in the treatment section is swung back and forth in the advancing direction for a desired time to be treated with the gas.

26. (New) The reaction apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the outlet side of the treatment section and one end side of the conveying mechanism facing the outlet side are positioned in a water tank filled with a desired liquid.

27. (New) The reaction apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the object is a wiper blade.

28. (New) The reaction apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the wiper blade is made of rubber or a synthetic resin.

29. (New) The reaction apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a feeding mechanism and a pressing roller disposed in the vicinity of the object inlet to forcibly feed the object through the object inlet by holding it therebetween, said pressing roller being adapted to be separated.